

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/731,563

Examiner

Rodney H. Bonck

Applicant(s)

OCHIAI ET AL.

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received August 16, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,9,10,13-23 and 25-27.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The following action is in response to the amendment received August 16, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 13-23, and 25-27 are allowed. In accordance with MPEP 608.01(n)IV, claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 25-27, 15, 16, and 18-23 will be renumbered for printing as claims 1-20, respectively.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to show or render obvious an electromagnetic clutch as defined in claim 1, wherein a magnetic flux leakage eliminating section includes a plurality of spatial areas defined between an inner peripheral surface of the rotor and an outer peripheral surface of the proximate member.

The art of record fails to show or teach the electromagnetic clutch as defined in claim 15 wherein the connecting section includes a splined section having mutually meshing spline teeth formed on the opposing member and the armature, respectively; and the magnetic flux leakage eliminating section includes spatial areas defined between tooth-cut-out portions, formed adjacent to the spline teeth of at least one of the opposing member and the armature, and the spline teeth of the other one of the opposing member and the armature.

The art of record fails to show or teach the electromagnetic clutch as defined in claim 16 wherein the connecting section includes a splined section having mutually meshing spline teeth formed on the opposing member and the armature, respectively; and the magnetic flux leakage eliminating section includes spatial areas defined between tooth-height adjusted teeth, formed adjacent to the spline teeth of at least one of the opposing member and the armature, and the spline teeth of the other one of the opposing member and the armature.

The prior art fails to show or render obvious the electromagnetic clutch device as defined in claim 18 having a friction plate operative to allow magnetic fluxes to pass to form a magnetic flux loop upon excitation of the coil and having a plurality of spaced portions formed in a part of opposing surfaces between the magnetic flux loop forming member and the proximate member so as to decrease a magnetic permeability of magnetic flux passing from the magnetic flux loop forming member to the proximate member.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner Comment

The amendments to the specification filed August 16, 2005 overcomes the objections to the disclosure set forth in the previous Office action. Accordingly the objections are withdrawn.

The amendment filed August 16, 2005 obviates the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, set forth in the previous Office action. Therefore, the rejection under 25 USC 112, second paragraph, is withdrawn.

The rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) are overcome by the amendments to the claims filed August 16, 2005. Accordingly, the rejections are withdrawn, and the claims are deemed allowable for the reasons set forth above under Reasons for Allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney H. Bonck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7089. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on (571) 272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Rodney H. Bonck
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3681

rhb
September 21, 2005